

BRITISH NAVY SUFFERS THE GREATEST DEFEAT IN ITS HISTORY, LOSING 15 SHIPS

ASQUITH GAVE WARNING AS NAVAL BATTLE RAGED

At the very time that the naval battle was raging off the Danish coast Premier Asquith was saying in the House of Commons in reply to Col. Winston Churchill's criticisms that it was necessary that a large body of men be kept in England as a precaution against possible invasion by the Germans.

It is possible that the Premier may have had some inkling of how the engagement was turning out when he spoke and realized that if Germany were able to defeat the British navy an invasion of England would follow.

"It is a risk that cannot be left out of consideration," he said, "and we must always effectively provide for it and must be guided by the opinion of those who can decide what number of men are absolutely necessary to render the country secure against invasion."

from their efforts and the crew was almost defeated by the concussion.

A great flame shot up from one of the British battleships, evidently as the result of an explosion, but the vessel did not sink. She left the first line for a few minutes and then returned and played a part in the chase of the Germans southward.

The Lancer Thursday morning saw about ten British ships steering east toward the Skagerrack.

Another Copenhagen despatch says that fishermen who have arrived at Esbjerg saw the end of the battle fifteen miles west-northwest of the Wyl Lightship. The Germans finally disappeared toward Heligoland and the British toward the west. The fishermen saw ninety ships on Wednesday evening and many more on Thursday morning. It is stated that ten German torpedo boats passed the Little Belt on the evening of June 1, moving very slowly, six of them damaged.

The German fleet, it is assumed, came from its base at Kiel through the Kaiser Wilhelm canal, putting to sea from Brunsbüttel, the North sea outlet of that waterway. Not many miles to the north lies the Isle of Sylt, the base of the German seaplanes and possibly of Zeppelins. It was here that an engagement was fought between British and German cruisers and torpedo craft two months ago as the result of a British raid on the hangers.

One of the chief duties of the seaplanes on Sylt when they are not making raids on England is to "look out for the British fleet." It is likely that news of the approach of the British naval forces on Wednesday was sent home by these patrolling seaplanes and that the Germans, seizing upon this chance, went out forthwith to make the test so long awaited by the world.

There are also evidences of Zeppelins having served the Germans as the "eyes of the fleet." A Copenhagen despatch yesterday reported that a Zeppelin had been sighted over the Danish island of Fanoe in a damaged condition, flying over Denmark in the direction of Schleswig.

That submarines played an important, perhaps on the German side a very important, part in the North Sea fight was generally believed here to-night. Some naval experts went so far as to attribute the German successes almost exclusively to the participation of a vast number of U-boats. It is pointed out in this connection that both Admiralties announce the destruction of a hostile submarine in the light and the German account mentions especially that the Marlborough was struck by a torpedo.

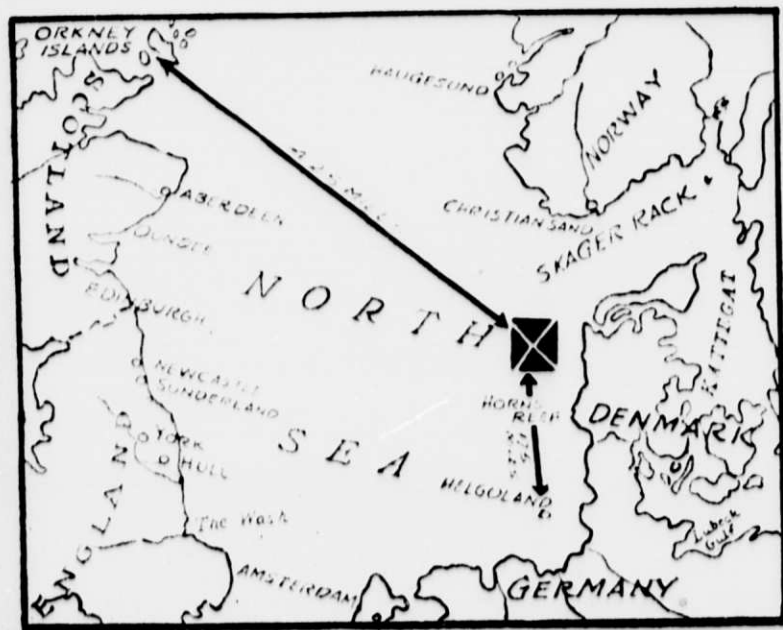
Further strength is lent to this theory by the statement by the British Admiralty that the German fleet "avoided prolonged action and accomplished its results by a quick thrust and withdrawal." In no better way could such a "quick thrust" be undertaken, it is argued by naval critics, than by the deceiving of the British force through German cruisers and, at the appropriate moment, a "wholesale" firing of torpedoes by invisible undersea craft.

The theory that the Germans for the first time brought into play the much heralded "new" type of submarine, a new gun of unprecedented range, also was advanced freely here to-night, although it is doubted in some quarters whether such guns would have been placed on the cruisers mentioned in the German report, all of an old type. To-night's announcement by the British Admiralty, mentioning the Kaiser class, lends more strength to the theory, however, as this class is comparatively new and well suited to improvements such as have been reported from German sources.

Snowstorms Rage in Russia.

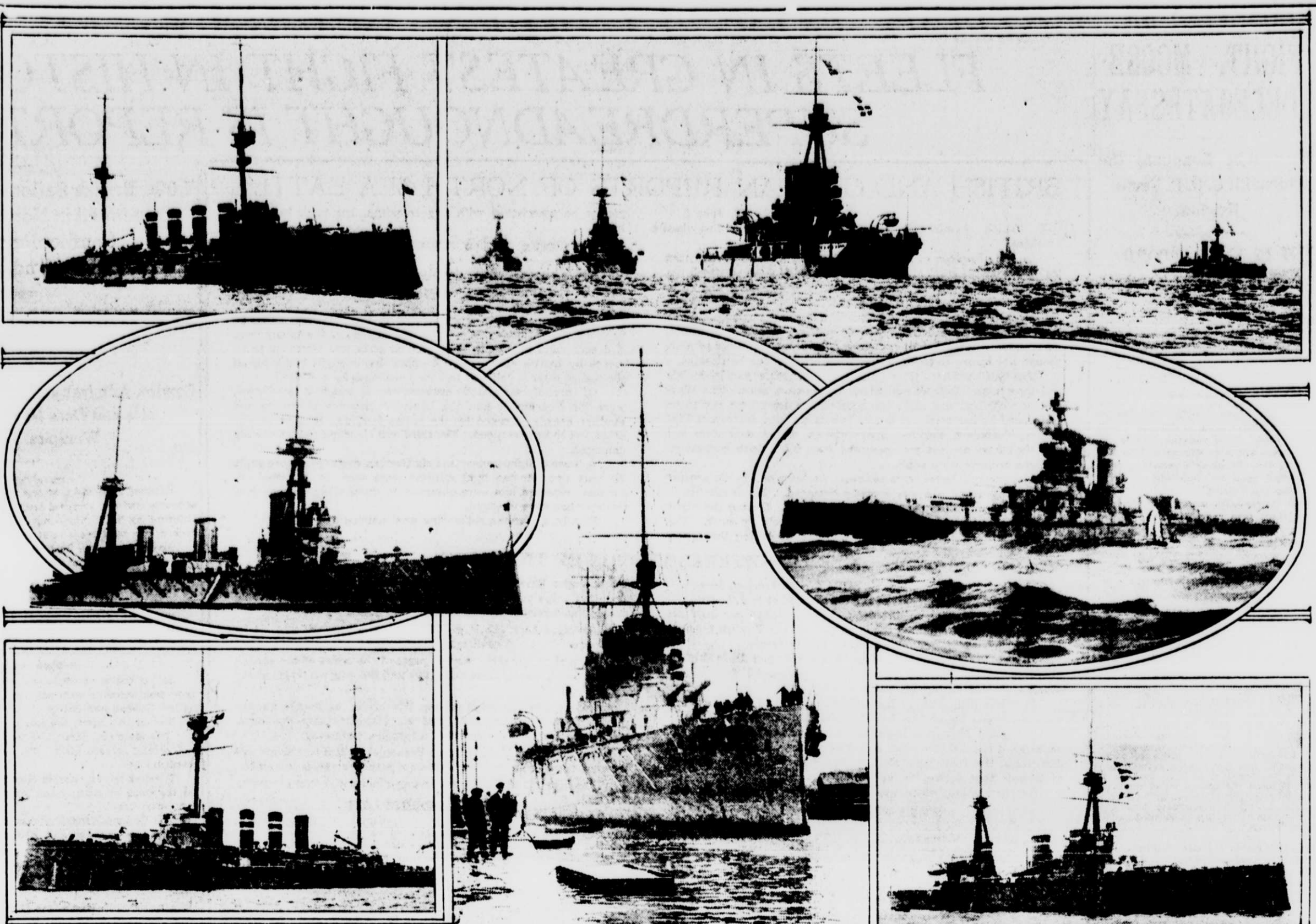
PETROGRAD, June 2.—A cold wave of unusual severity is being felt throughout Russia. A heavy snowfall has descended the cars at Kazan, and at Nizhni-Novgorod the temperature is still below freezing.

THE scene of the great naval battle is given in official despatches as between Horn's Reef (off the coast of Jutland) and the entrance to the Skagerrack. Cable despatches on Thursday reported that heavy firing was heard off the Danish coast and that a disabled Zeppelin was seen returning over Fanoe Island. The distance from Kirkwall, the northerly base of the British fleet, and also from Heligoland, is given on the map.



BRITISH SHIPS LOST IN THE NORTH SEA BATTLE

At left, top, armored cruiser Black Prince; below it, the battle cruiser Indefatigable; at bottom, the armored cruiser Warrior. At top to right, photograph of a squadron of the Grand Battle Fleet, with the super-dreadnought Marlborough, the flagship, leading. Below, the superdreadnought Warspite and, at bottom, to right, the battle cruiser Invincible. In the centre, the battle cruiser Queen Mary, and below her the armored cruiser Defence.



BRITISH SAY LOSS ISN'T IRREPARABLE

Germany Greater Sufferer in the Sea Battle, One London Paper Holds.

OPTIMISM IS URGED

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun. London, June 2.—The Daily Express, while admitting that the losses in the North Sea battle were severe, says "the action was nothing more than the ordinary result of constant naval activity."

"The whole thing," it says, "was an unfortunate incident, nothing more. The German losses are far more serious than ours when the comparative naval strength is considered."

The Daily Graphic says: "We have suffered a loss at sea equal to many pitched battles on land. We can only set our teeth and prepare to carry on the struggle with greater determination."

The Daily Telegraph says: "The result of the encounter is not what we should have liked, but let us guard against undue pessimism. Our battle fleet is untouched and the balance of sea is possibly on our side—we cannot say for a certainty—bearing in mind the relative naval strengths of the two countries. This at least can be confidently asserted, that nothing has occurred to affect in any degree the hold which our naval power has exercised for nearly two years on the ocean communications of the world. On that solid

fact we may rest our assured hopes for the future."

The Morning Post says: "Our main force and our battle cruiser fleet went to meet the German fleet, but the cruisers, being faster, arrived first and in hazy weather ran into the German main fleet. Battle cruisers are built for long distance fighting and are not meant to stand the brunt of a close fought engagement with heavily armed battleships. The only explanation of the German battle fleet was aided by 'low visibility.' Their heavy metal got our lighter metal at close range and gave it a severe punishment. The light must have been at what nowadays is close range, and the German battleships, well protected by armor, outmaneuvered our cruiser in a fight for which they were not suited. Our advance guard in fact engaged the German main guard and the result could be foreseen."

"Nevertheless, when our main forces came up the position was reversed. The German main fleet was actually joined, and although the Germans were able to disengage, they received before they did so severe damage from our battleships. In the main battle, therefore, the Germans were defeated, our main fleet holding the sea."

"The Daily Mail continues: 'We have at present only a half-truth, but if the official statements are conclusive then the battle is over and the result cannot be regarded with satisfaction. But it is possible that the British operations are still incomplete.'"

The Daily Chronicle criticizes the policy which resulted in a feeble force being sent forward in enemy waters to be almost overwhelmed by a stronger adversary."

"Result of New Policy."

"Possibly the idea," it continues, "was that our cruiser squadron would outflank the enemy to engage him until the arrival of the big battleships. Unhappily for the calculations, before our great battleships could come into action the German fleet, content with the damage done, raced back to port and our aims were frustrated."

"We fear that the policy which resulted in the loss of so many valuable lives and ships is directly traceable to the influence upon naval strategy of civil alarm on the east coast and the demand of some emotional people that the fleet do something spectacular. In his letter to the Mayors of Yarmouth and Lowestoft Mr. Balfour distinctly fore-shadowed a change in naval policy. One gathered that in the future we would not wait for enemy warships to come and make a runaway bombardment of the east coast and endeavor to intercept them on their return."

"Some new unspecified method was to be adopted. Can it be that the very unsatisfactory battle off the Danish coast is its first fruit? We imagine it must be. If so, the new policy stands condemned."

FEAR FOR U. S. OFFICER.

Friends of U. S. Attaché Heard He Was an Indefatigable.

BALTIMORE, Md., June 2.—Relatives of Lieutenant Commander Powers Symington, United States Naval Attaché at London, who is one of "the Symington boys" of this city, fear he was aboard the British battle cruiser Indefatigable, which was sunk in the North Sea battle. They had word from Commander Symington recently that he was spending some time aboard that ship.

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EDITORIAL VIEWS OF NAVAL BATTLE

Comments by New York Newspapers on the North Sea Engagement.

EFFECT IS DISCUSSED.

New York newspapers comment editorially this morning on the North Sea battle as follows:

The World. Germany has won the greatest sea victory in modern history. Although the victory is in no sense decisive, its moral effect on the German people will be immeasurable, for it goes to balance the failure of the German army in the terribly costly drive on Verdun.

The German Government sadly needed a victory for its confidence upon a public opinion that has been growing restive as the casualties at Verdun increased and that has smarted under the surrender of the German army to President Wilson's ultimatum in the matter of a submarine warfare.

When the victory came it was one that might well touch the pride and patriotism of any nation. It cannot be said that British sea power is seriously crippled or that it is crippled at all. The supremacy of such a navy is not to be impaired by the destruction of half a dozen ships, no matter what their size or their value may be. It is possible that balancing losses against losses the two navies are relatively where they were before the engagement was fought. Great Britain can afford to take defeats that would wipe the German navy from the face of the waters. She has a ship to spare. Nevertheless the moral advantage is all with Germany, which will be heartened in the same degree that Great Britain is depressed by the unexpected results of this unexpected encounter.

The Times.

In the first great collision between the naval forces of Germany and England the British have suffered a defeat for which responsibility remains to be allocated to strategy, tactics, hunting of, and luck. The circumstances are belittled. The Germans refer to the enemy force as "the main part of the English fighting fleet," but on the other hand it appears almost conclusively that the German force was greatly superior, especially in the larger units. Copenhagen reports that twelve German force included five dreadnoughts.

But however unfavorable to the British the conditions were, the result cannot be said to be humiliating to English naval pride, and in a corresponding decree bearing on the German. The English will doubtless feel something akin to the sensations experienced in the North after the battle of Bull Run.

In its bearing on the relative strength of the German and English fleets this naval victory seems so far unimportant.

The Tribune.

This event will probably cause more dismay in England than any of the dis-



asters that have befallen British arms since the war began. A great deal remains to be explained. It is manifest that the British fleet was not taken by surprise. It was out in force at the afternoon end of the North Sea and must have been prepared to meet an equally powerful force.

According to the German account the British force was "considerably superior." On this point the British report is silent. It was merely that the enemy avoided a long engagement with the main force and retired hastily to his base. In that case his tactics were evidently sound, for the result was a clear victory, and a victory of no insignificant magnitude.

The Press.

Ten mixed war vessels are a trifling fraction of the British navy. It could lose many more than that and still be pecuniarily superior in numbers to the German fighting ships. But sea power which claims the mastery of all others can have one of its fleets cut to pieces within gunshot so to speak, of the whole navy without suffering direct and lasting reproach, though the physical damage may be easily repaired.

For truth is that throughout this whole war the British, both on land and on sea, have been inexhaustibly sleep. When Germany is hammering the Allies all over Europe with a fire never more intense in twenty-two months than it is now it is time for the British to wake up if they are ever going to wake up.

Portuguese Pursuing Germans.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun. Lisbon, via London, June 2.—The Portuguese forces in Mozambique have repulsed German troops attempting to reconquer Kionga, at the mouth of the Rovuma River, in German East Africa. The Germans, who were strongly equipped with artillery, were pursued across the river, and the Portuguese occupied several islands in the river.

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N. Y. GERMAN PAPERS COMMENT ON FIGHT

Views of North Sea Engagement as Seen by "Staats-Zeitung" and "Herald."

PRAISE FOR SEAMANSHIP

The New York German newspapers have the following to say, editorially, this morning on the naval battle:

German Herald.

While complete details of the fight in the North Sea are still lacking, however, clear that the German navy won a great victory, perhaps the greatest of all times. British sea power has received a blow from which it will not easily recover.

If the proud British, with their fleet, no longer can keep their hands off their adversaries, the sea becomes of British naval supremacy. It is not alone the fact of the victory that gives power, but the fact that the British navy has been able to win a battle had been fought under the most unfavorable conditions. The British navy has shown that it is not only a powerful force, but also a well-trained and well-equipped one. The British navy has shown that it is not only a powerful force, but also a well-trained and well-equipped one.

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Staats-Zeitung.

While Germany is holding its own, the British navy is suffering a great defeat. The British navy is suffering a great defeat. The British navy is suffering a great defeat.

We have become accustomed to the fact that the British navy is suffering a great defeat. The British navy is suffering a great defeat. The British navy is suffering a great defeat.

We recall a statement of Mr. Churchill, which ran something like this: "Unless the German navy comes out and fights us, we will do them in." The British navy is suffering a great defeat.

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There is still hope that the German navy will win a great victory. The German navy will win a great victory. The German navy will win a great victory. The German navy will win a great victory. The German navy will win a great victory.

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PAVES WAY FOR PEACE.

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